

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-04 /089 W

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O R 011930Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0884

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

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AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

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AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD'S MONTHLY TV ADDRESS JUNE 30

SUMMARY. GISCARD DELIVERED HIS SIXTH MONTHLY TV ADDRESS ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE SPRING PARLIAMENTARY SESSION AND AT THE EVE OF THE SUMMER VACATIONS. CONFIRMING IN PASSING THAT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS WOULD NOT BE HELD BEFORE 1978, HE OFFERED BRIGHTENED ECONOMIC NEWS:  
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PRICE INCREASES HAVE BEEN HELD TO A 10 PERCENT ANNUAL

RATE DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS, THE JANUARY-JUNE FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES SHOW A NET SURPLUS, AND A LIKELY UPTURN IN THE US ECONOMY MAY PROMISE IMPROVEMENT HERE IN FRANCE. FOR THE FIRST TIME, GISCARD MENTIONED STATISTICS ON UNEMPLOYMENT, CITING THE 835,000 REGISTERED JOB SEEKERS NOW ON THE MARKET. THE POLITICAL TONE OF THE SPEECH WAS ADMONITIVE AS GISCARD CHARACTERIZED FRENCH POLITICAL LIFE AS "TOO STRAINED AND TOO VEHEMENT." END SUMMARY.

1. ECONOMIC ISSUES: GISCARD CLAIMED POSITIVE RESULTS FOR GOF POLICIES IN FOREIGN TRADE AND PRICE POLICY. THE GOVERNMENT GOAL FOR FOREIGN TRADE--TO REACH A BALANCE BY THE END OF 1975--HAS ALREADY BEEN EXCEEDED, WITH THE PERIOD JANUARY 1-MAY 30 SHOWING A NET SURPLUS. COMMENT: THE SURPLUS IS MORE ATTRIBUTABLE TO DEPRESSED IMPORTS THAN TO EXPANDED EXPORTS. END COMMENT. DURING THE LAST QUARTER, PRICE RISES CORRESPONDED TO THE 10 PERCENT ANNUAL RATE WHICH GISCARD HAD CLAIMED AS HIS GOAL IN THE APRIL 23 FIRESIDE CHAT (REF PARIS 10475). ADMITTING THAT THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAS SLOWED DOWN, HE CLAIMED THAT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES SHOW 835,000 JOB SEEKERS CURRENTLY ON THE MARKET. COMMENT: THESE FIGURES CONTRAST ONLY SLIGHTLY WITH THOSE CLAIMED BY THE OPPOSITION UNION OF THE LEFT (850,000).

2. HOPES FOR A BRIGHTER ECONOMIC FUTURE: GISCARD OFFERED A MORE CANDID THAN USUAL ASSESSMENT OF FRENCH ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCY AS HE POINTED OUT THAT:

- THE FRENCH ECONOMY MAY BE FAVORABLY AFFECTED BY THE REPORTED UPTURN OF THE US ECONOMY;
- THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE FRENCH ECONOMY BY THE END OF JULY AND WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE REGULAR JULY SUMMIT MEETING WITH THE FRG TO SEE WHAT CONCERTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE FRG ARE REQUIRED.

ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE, GISCARD POINTED TO APRIL'S DECISION TO OFFER INCENTIVES TO PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT AND CLAIMED THAT THE EFFECTS ARE ALREADY BEING FELT.

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3. THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION: AFTER REMINDING THE FRENCH OF THE IMPORTANT REFORMS PASSED BY THE PARLIAMENT DURING THE SPRING SESSION (REFORM OF THE BUSINESS TAX, LIBERALIZATION OF THE DIVORCE LAWS, STATE INSURANCE FOR CHILD-SUPPORT PAYMENTS, THE EXPANSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE TO ALL FRENCHMEN, EDUCATIONAL REFORM), GISCARD TOOK NOTE OF PARLIAMENTARY IRRITATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RAPID PACE AT THE END OF THE SESSION. IN

ORDER TO PLAN NEXT YEAR'S PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA, GISCARD  
WILL MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND THE PARLIAMEN-  
TARY LEADERS ON JULY 11 COMMENT: RELATIONS WITH THE  
PARLIAMENT HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR THE ELYSEE RECENTLY;  
WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO PASS ALL OF ITS  
PROPOSED REFORM, THE LACK OF TIME FOR PARLIAMENTARY  
CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS AT THE END OF THE  
TERM AND TIGHT MAJORITY DISCIPLINE HAVE MADE THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FEEL THAT ITS PREROGATIVES HAVE BEEN  
DENIGRATED BY THE MATIGNON AND ELYSEE. EVEN MAJORITY  
DEPUTIES ARE ANGRILY TALKING ABOUT BEING TAKEN FOR  
GRANTED. IF GISCARD AND CHIRAC CAN OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH  
THE PARLIAMENT, THEY WILL HAVE TAKEN A LONG STEP TOWARDS  
DEFUSING THE SITUATION.

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4. POLITICS -- A TIME TO RELAX? GISCARD WAS LOGICAL, CHIDING AND VERY FRENCH AS HE CHARACTERIZED POLITICAL DEBATE IN FRANCE TODAY AS STRIDENT AND TENSE. THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ARE PAST AND A SEVEN-YEAR MAN-DATE HAS BEEN DELIVERED; THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WILL COME IN 1977 AND THE LEGISLATIVES ONLY IN 1978 -- WHY  
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THEN, HE ASKED, THE USELESS AND UNPRODUCTIVE TENSION IN POLITICAL LIFE WHEN FRANCE SHOULD BE FACING AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF CALM? WITHOUT OFFERING ANY PARTISAN ANALYSIS, GISCARD ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD TAKE ACTIONS IN THE FALL TO ATTEMPT TO RELAX POLITICAL LIFE AND REPEATED HIS CALL FOR A LIBERAL, ADVANCED SOCIETY AND A MORE RELAXED APPROACH TO RESOLVING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS.

5. COMMENT AND CONCLUSIONS: GISCARD FOUND, FOR THE SIXTH TIME, THE RIGHT NOTE TO STRIKE FOR THE FRENCH. HE OFFERED A BIT OF GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS, TOLD THE FRENCH THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING FURTHER UNTIL THE FALL AND SUGGESTED THEY GO OFF TO THEIR SUMMER VACATIONS WITH AN UNTROUBLED MIND. FRANCE HAS VACATIONS ON ITS MIND AND NO REAL WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO TOUGH POLITICAL TALK FROM THE OPPOSITION. WHILE OPPOSITION LEADERS WILL CONTINUE THEIR ATTEMPTS TO WARN OF THE EXTENT AND APPARENT INTRACTABILITY OF FRENCH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DURING THE SUMMER LULL, GISCARD'S SPEECH CAPTURED HIS COUNTRYMEN'S FEELINGS, AND SERVED NOTICE THAT THE HARD DECISIONS AND THE BAD NEWS WILL NOT COME BEFORE THE FALL.

6. AS USUAL, GISCARD'S MONTHLY TELEVISION CHAT WAS AIMED AT THE ORDINARY FRENCHMEN IN THE PROVINCES AND NOT AT THE PARISIAN INTELLECTUALS. THE LATTER WILL FAULT HIS TALK FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. CONSERVATIVES WILL CRITICIZE HIM FOR TEMPTING FATE BY BOASTING ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF SOCIAL TROUBLE DURING THE PAST YEAR DESPITE PREDICTIONS TO THE CONTRARY. PROGRESSIVE ELEMENTS WILL SAY THAT GISCARD'S CONSTANT TALK ABOUT ECONOMIC STUDIES MERELY PROVE THAT HE IS JUST TINKERING WITH FRANCE'S

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND NOT TAKING THE NECESSARY IN-DEPTH  
MEASURES. BUT EXPERIENCE AND THE OPINION POLLS INDICATE THAT GISCARD'S TECHNIQUE IS HELPING BUY TIME  
BECAUSE THE GENERAL POPULATION APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO  
BE PLEASED AND CONFIDENT.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPEECHES, ECONOMIC ESTIMATES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PARIS17104  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750228-0250  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750795/aaaadhef.tel  
**Line Count:** 229  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GISCARD'S MONTHLY TV ADDRESS JUNE 30 SUMMARY. GISCARD DELIVERED HIS SIXTH MONTHLY TV  
**TAGS:** PGOV, FR, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006